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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

NICOLO F. MACHI, et al.

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EXAMINER: UNKNOWN

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South Bend, Indiana
October 11, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO-1449 form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, excluding any cited copending applications.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e) or fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

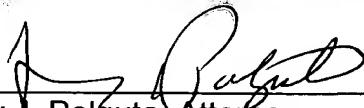
Respectfully Submitted


Larry J. Palguta, Attorney
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Encl.: Form 1449 & references

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with
the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
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Larry J. Palguta, Attorney
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